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William R. Wild - Mayor

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Welcome to the 8th Annual Blues Brews and Barbeque Festival!

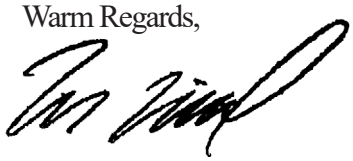
It has been an incredible experience to watch this event grow and evolve over the past eight years into what is now one of the most highly anticipated and well attended events in metro Detroit.

This two-day event draws thousands of attendees from the entire region and features Detroit Blues legends, a sampling of Michigan's finest craft brews and mouthwatering BBQ selections from the area's professional pit-master BBQ'ers.

I want to thank all of our volunteers, the participating restaurants, our sponsors and the performers for their hard work and dedication to making this event remarkable. I would also like to thank YOU for your attendance. Your support helps to ensure that local area civic groups receive funding they need to give back to the community. To receive the funds, these local organizations provide the volunteer manpower to make this event a great success.

The volunteers these groups provide serve as greeters, grounds crew, and ID checkers, among a variety of other roles in an effort to cost effectively operate the annual event. To date, Blues, Brews and BBQ has raised $200,000 for these community organizations, enabling them to do incredible things for those in need. So please sit back, relax and enjoy the fun - and know that you have made a difference, just by being here today.

Warm Regards,



William R. Wild, Mayor

A family affair

Blues Brews and Barbecue offers community fun

Blues Brews and Barbecue has become the favorite city event of many residents-and Brookellen Swope admits that, despite all expectations, it has become her favorite too.

Swope, the CEO of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, has been organizing and overseeing the event for about seven years. It has grown, during that time, from attracting crowds of about 5,000 to the record attendance of 14,000 last year.

"I admit it is my favorite," Swope said. "We outgrew the former location two years ago and had to move it-which is a nice problem to have."

This year, as usual, there will be live entertainment all weekend with the Soul Men, a Blues Brothers tribute band closing appearing from 8-10 p.m. Saturday with the Madison Avenue Band.

> *This event raises money for the non-profits in the community which benefits our residents, which benefits the community as a whole.*

"They are very popular," Swope said, "and very, very entertaining."

The Blues, Brews and Barbecue will also close out the event with musically choreographed fireworks for the third year.

"The fireworks will begin shortly after 10 p.m. on Saturday, and people who don't want to come to the festival can still enjoy the display," Swope said. "There is plenty of room on the soccer fields and we want everyone to be able to enjoy them."

The Blues Brews and Barbecue will take place this year on the grounds of the old Westland City Hall on Ford Road. There will be parking with a free shuttle from John Glenn High School, the Senior Friendship Center and the Vo-Tech Center in town. The shuttles will run during festival times and drop guests off right at the gate.

"We only ask that no outside food or beverages be brought in," Swope

said. "This is a family-friendly event and we have something for everybody."

Swope, who has been with the chamber of commerce for two decades, said she feels fortunate to be able to organize and oversee the event as it is an opportunity to see the entire festival from the start to the end.

The event is her favorite in the community, however, for a different reason.

"This event raises money for the non-profits in the community which benefits our residents, which benefits the community as a whole. It's just very gratifying."

Swope said that she is always very grateful to both the sponsors of the event and the vendors who participate.

"Every year, these vendors just step up their game," she said. "Blues Brews and Barbecue has become so popular, there is such a great demand from the crowds, we have had years that some of our vendors have actually run out of food. They step up more and more every year," she said.

She added that the response every year to the entertainment is always phenomenal and that they try to change it and add new entertainment while keeping the crowd favorites like the Soul Men.

"We have a guy from the Detroit Blues Society who helps us with those acts," she said. "The response from the crowds is always terrific."

Swope said she expects the crowds to increase again this year as the event continues to grow in popularity.

"It really is a very family friendly, community event," she concluded.

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ASSESSING

The thrill of the grill

More than 40 competitors vie for barbecue honors

One of the hottest attractions at the Blues, Brews and Barbecue event this year will be the Kansas City Barbecue Society All American Barbecue Throwdown.

This will be the fourth year the Westland Jaycee organization has hosted the barbecue competition, and there is no shortage of contestants.

Eric Stoddard, chairman of the throwdown event, noted that the first amateur competition four years ago started as a "sort of backyard competition. The next year, there were 16 entries vying for awards, last year, 29 professional barbecue cooks entered and this year more than 40 have already entered hoping to win the Grand Champion trophy.

> *There is no admission fee to come over and watch the barbecue and talk to the cooks*

"It's a family event," Stoddard, a 4-year-member of the Westland Jaycees said. The club members handle the parking and myriad other duties associated with organizing and overseeing the event, now sanctioned by the barbecue society.

There are strict rules for the professionals cooking in various categories including ribs, chicken and brisket, all vying to become the Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion in one of the various categories. Judging is pretty rigorous, too, Stoddard said as there are more than 50 professional judges who rate the entries.

This year, teams of cooks will come from Ontario, Canada, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, hoping to take home the grand prize and many will bring their families with them for the event.

In addition to the professional cooks entering the competition, Stoddard said there would be about 10 amateur chefs also vying for honors.

Entry fees from the cooks fund the various expenses that the Jaycees incur, items like electric generators, awards, prizes and various other costs. Club members volunteer their time for the manpower needed to ensure the event runs smoothly. Any profits go back to the community, Stoddard said, and help the Jaycees fund public events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas activities along with the events for children in the park during the year.

The barbecue event will take place at the back portion of the Westland Farmer's Market during the weekend event.

"It's just a great community event," Stoddard said of Blues, Brews and Barbecue.

"It has been growing every year."

Jaycee membership is a family affair for Stoddard whose wife, Andrea Rutkowski, is a Livonia Jaycee member. He was a member of that club, too, before joining Westland about four years ago.

"We are an event in conjunction with, not part of, the Blues, Brews and Barbecue event," Stoddard said. "There is no admission fee to come over and watch the barbecue and talk to the cooks, who are always personable and have some great (cooking) advice."

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Which craft?

Brewers offer unique selection of beers at festival

Blues, Brews and Barbecue is one of the most highly anticipated events in metro Detroit. Attended by thousands of people throughout the region, the event pulls together Detroit Blues legends, mouthwatering barbecue and a sampling of Michigan brews

Michigan is ranked 5th in the country for number of breweries, microbreweries and brew pubs. The industry, which consists of more than 200 brewing factories, contributes nearly $7 billion to the state economy every year. Since 2011, the number of Michigan craft breweries has more than doubled and there are now more than 5,000 across the United States.

The selection at Westland this year includes:

Atwater Dirty Blonde - Atwater Brewery was founded in 1977 when it made its debut in the Detroit Rivertown district. Today the brewery is thriving and expanding at the original location including a full scale biergarten and taphouse. The company recently opened Atwater in the Park located 8 miles from the brewery and a location in Grand Rapids in 2016. Atwater Dirty Blonde is a wheat ale brewed to be a bright straw color and lightly sweet with a crisp finish which includes fresh orange peel and coriander.

Erik the Red by Dragonmead - Dragonmead Brewery was founded in 1997, well ahead of the craft beer revolution in Michigan. The company mission is to produce beer so good that it

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changes the very nature of the industry. Erik the Red is an Irish Style Amber Ale. The Irish style is accomplished by using a true Irish yeast strain in fermentation. It is light in finish but bold in taste. Melanoidin malt is added for the red color and the spicy finish comes through from the use of Chinook hops.

Norm's Raggedy IPA by Griffin Claw - Griffin Claw Brewing Co. is located in Birmingham. Norm's Raggedy IPA is the brewery's World Beer Cup Champion. The key is in the giant combination of piney, citrusy and fruity hops with a surprisingly low malt profile. This mellow double IPA is not only a great introduction for someone who wants to try a double IPA, but also offers a lot for experienced IPA drinkers to enjoy. Fairly new to the microbew scene, Griffin Claw has been regaled as the next great Michigan brewery.

Angry Orchard Rose - The Angry Orchard Cider apple orchard is a 60-acre orchard located in Walden, New York where it has been making cider for more than 200 years. The rose is made with rare, red flesh apples from France. Each apple is crisp, juicy and red to the core adding an irresistible rosy blush and apple forward taste

with a refreshing dry finish. This selection serves as a gluten free alternative for event attendees.

The event will also feature popular Domestics, such as Miller Lite and Molson Ice as well as Leinenkugel's Summer Shandy and Corona Light.

Stay up to date on all the latest news and updates about this landmark event by visiting www.cityofwestland.com.

COMMUNITY

Strong communities are the foundation of a healthy, thriving environment for all people. That's why the DTE Energy Foundation helps power communities by supporting local events and organizations that enhance life. We partner with local leaders to promote important initiatives from neighborhood transformation to economic development and community outreach services.

The DTE Energy Foundation is proud to once again support the City of Westland's All-American Blues, Brews and BBQ.

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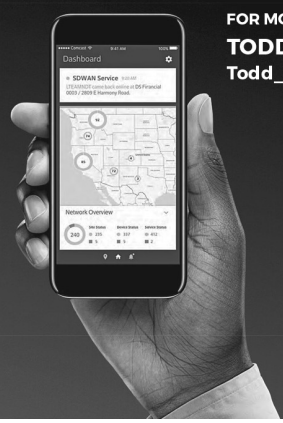

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Blues ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Gates open 5 p.m. Friday • 4 p.m. Saturday

Friday, Aug. 3, 2018

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. The Boa Constrictors
7:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Boa Constrictors
featuring Detroit Blues Legend, John Watkins
9 -11 p.m. Broken Arrow

Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018

4 - 5:30 p.m. Joe Stanley Band
6 - 7:30 p.m. Bobby Murray Band
8 - 10 p.m. The Madison Avenue Band
featuring The Soul Men

Saturday Night!
The Madison Avenue Band
Featuring The Soul Men

BREWS

Craft Beers — $8
Atwater Dirty Blonde.
Erik the Red by Dragonmead
Norms Raggedy IPA by Griffin Claw
Angry Orchard Rose

Domestic Beers — $6
Miller Lite
Molson Ice
Leinenkugel's Summer Shandy
Corona Light

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Beautiful Patio

Annual festival benefits local civic groups

A number of Westland-based volunteer groups will benefit from the Blues, Brews and BBQ event Friday and Saturday, Aug. 3-4. The festival takes place at Central City Park, 36601 Ford Road in Westland.

After the August 2017 event, Mayor William R. Wild presented checks for more than $10,000 to nine local community organizations generated from the Blues, Brews and Barbecue event. That put the total funds raised for community organizations at nearly $200,000 to date in the past seven years.

The checks were presented to the volunteer organizations at a Westland City Council meeting.

"I want to thank all of our volunteers, the participating restaurants, our sponsors and the performers for another remarkable event," said Wild. "This event continues to grow and with the addition of fireworks, draws thousands of people from surrounding communities. We wouldn't be able to pull it all off without the help of our amazing civic group volunteers."

> *This event continues to grow and with the addition of fireworks, draws thousands of people from surrounding communities.*

The fireworks take place at 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4.

The nine community organizations who received donations from the event last year include: the Goodfellows ($750), Lions Club ($1,000), the Westland Citivans ($2,000), Rotary ($1,500), The Westland Community Foundation ($500), Jaycees ($3,000), Grange ($750), the Westland Historical Commission ($500) and Warm Hearts ($500).

"The money awarded to the Westland Area Jaycees goes directly back to making an impact within the three cities they serve - Wayne, Garden City and Westland," said then-Jaycee President Rebecca Markonni. "From raking leaves for seniors, to putting a Christmas gift in the hands of over 100 children that would have gone without, the

See **Benefits,** page 12

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Benefits from page 11

Westland Area Jaycees are here to serve our community."

To receive the funds, these local organizations provide the volunteer manpower to make the event a success. The volunteers these groups provided served as greeters, grounds crew, and ID checkers, among a variety of other roles in an effort to cost - effectively operate the annual event.

"Being able to hand out the checks is my favorite part," said Westland Chamber of Commerce CEO Brookellen Swope. "I always love seeing our civic groups, and being able to hand them money instead of asking them for something is a great feeling. We are blessed in our community to have so many great organizations and volunteers. This community event would not be possible without all of these wonderful people."

Safety first

Police presence is safety precaution

Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik is confident that those attending Blues, Brews and Barbecue this year will enjoy a family-friendly safe event.

"We haven't had a police incident in several years," he said. "This is a community-friendly event."

Jedrusik said a factor in the safety and family atmosphere at the Blues Brews and Barbecue could be due to the lack of a carnival attraction during the event.

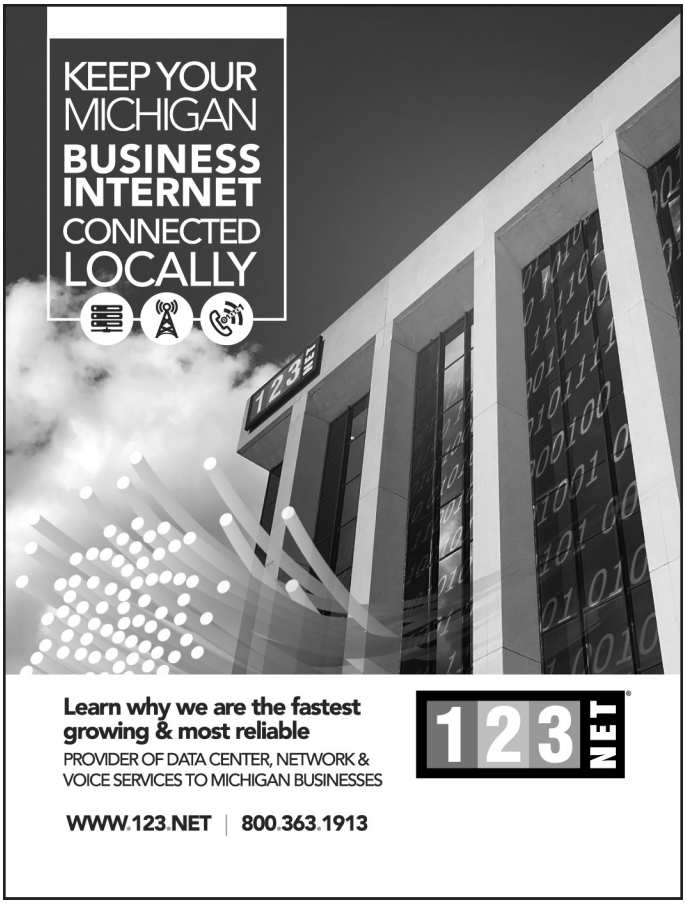
"As the years have gone on, we have gotten away from the carnival type of event. As I said, we have had no real police incidents in several years."

Jedrusik said there would be a strong police presence at the event with 30 to 40 officers on hand for "high visibility."

"We'll be working on traffic details and pedestrian safety," he said. "I really encourage visitors to use the off-site parking at John Glenn High School, the VoTech Center and the Senior Friendship Center. There is a free shuttle from the Marquette Road and Friendship Center locations," he said, and added that use of the off-site parking would help eliminate the danger to pedestrians and parking and traffic concerns.

The shuttles run from 6-11:30 p.m Friday and 5-11:30 p.m. Saturday.

"We haven't had an incident in years and we want to keep it that way," Jedrusik added.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A breath of air

Westland fire fighters to teach CPR during festival

The Westland Fire Department will be offering a lot more than Band-Aids and gentle-attention during Blues, Brews and Barbecue this year.

According to Fire Chief Michael Stradtner, the emergency health professionals will also be offering lessons in hands-only CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) a skill that can mean the difference between life and death.

"We will have a large presence at the event this year," Stradtner said, "just to ensure that everyone is acting safety. We haven't had a serious incident at the event in several years. Mostly, minor needs like Band-Aids or maybe the heat."

Firefighters and EMTs will use the time to teach CPR which is a valuable skill everyone can use, he said.

> *"We will have a very large presence designed to keep everybody safe."*

He added that the entire administrative staff of the Westland Fire Department would be on hand during Blues, Brews and Barbecue and many would be riding through the grounds in golf carts to help ensure the safety of visitors.

"There will be medics on site throughout the event," he said.

He added that at night, particularly during the fireworks display on Saturday, there would be two fire trucks on standby at each end of the grounds, along with a rescue vehicle.

"When it's dark, we're not that visible, but we are there," he said. One fire truck will be very near the fireworks display to immediately extinguish any small hot spots from the firework detonations.

"They do a great job of keeping the ground wet and putting any of those that happen out immediately," he said.

"We will have a very large presence designed to keep everybody safe," Stradtner said.

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Kaboom

Fireworks display is festival finale

Fireworks are literally fire in the sky, and organizers of the Westland Blues, Brews and Barbecue are eager to showcase the spectacular display at 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug., 4, over city skies.

The Westland BBQ fireworks will be at the Thomas H. Brown Central City Park located at 36601 Ford Road. This is the third year for City of Westland fireworks, noted Craig Brown, city interim chief innovation officer.

"This has become a great finish for what has become the jewel of the city's summer events," said Brown.

"Considering we had over 14,000 people at Blues, Brews and Barbecue last year, with the majority on the day of the fireworks, I would have to definitely say they are popular with the residents."

The Westland fireworks display will last about 20 minutes, Brown said.

A private professional fireworks company handles the Westland fireworks for the city with the full involvement of the Westland Fire Department, Brown said. The firm uses business best practices to ensure people's safety, he added.

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Rock ‘n’ roll and a lot of soul

The Madison Avenue Band will take to the stage at Westland Blues, Brews and Barbecue from 8-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug 4 bringing back festival favorites the Soul Brothers, a Blues Brothers tribute band. The Madison Avenue Band musicians have been performing together for the better part of 25 years but treat every show as an opening night. “The secret to our success is that we limit ourselves to the number of jobs we will book” said Chip Werner - bassist and band manager. “So we are totally pumped for each performance we give.” Madison Avenue specializes in high-energy rock, rhythm and blues with a great blend of old-school funk/disco. “We all grew up listening to Van Morrison, Chicago, and Wilson Pickett on the radio,” said Mark Work - keyboards. The Blues Brothers tribute always brings the crowd to their feet and is expected to do so again this year.

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Strumming the Blues

John Watkins joins The Boa Constrictors in Friday show

The Friday night entertainment this year during Blues, Brews and Barbecue will bring the blues portion of the event to the stage when The Boa Constrictors, a Detroit Blues band with a Rockabilly twist, take to the stage.

John Watkins

The musicians all have a true Detroit pedigree and pride themselves on presenting true Detroit music with a pure Detroit attitude.

They will perform from 6:30 until 7:30 Friday night and then be joined by blues legend John Watkins.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Watkins was considered one of the most promising blues guitarists and singers in Chicago, where he was born. He grew up in the shadow of the famed Theresa's Lounge on the South Side, a famed Blues club.

Watkins' crisp, clean guitar work and soaring, soul-drenched vocals were showcased on his debut LP, Here I Am, cut for the French Blue Phoenix label during a 1984 tour. His American recording debut was "Chained To Your Love," a track on Alligator's The New Bluebloods compilation, which remains his only U.S. release.

In the late 1980s, Watkins moved to Detroit and now occasionally sits in with The Boa Constrictors in presenting real Blues guitar as they play Detroit music, with their own distinctive style.

The members of the band have played with legendary Detroit artists like Billy Davis, The Sharecroppers of Soul, Lazy Lester, Little Junior Cannaday, the Butler Twins, Harmonica Shah, Sir Mack Rice, and Uncle Jesse White.

Each and every member of the Boa Constrictors brings their unique life experiences to the stage, both musically and personally. The show is guaranteed to be spontaneous, energetic, loads of fun, and full of the ingredients that make Detroit music one of the most exciting American musical art forms.

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